



2001 Wetlands Reserve Program

Program Focus

New Jersey NRCS focuses WRP on tidal wetlands along the Delaware Bay area and on drained cropland in palustrine wetland systems.



Emergent wetland restored in former pasture

New Jersey Summary

Overview

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands. Landowners have the option of enrolling eligible lands through permanent easements, 30-year easements, and restoration cost-share agreements.

Restoration projects in New Jersey have been very diverse. Projects include coastal wetlands formerly used as salt hay, blueberry fields restored to native Pineland wetland habitat, and plowed cropland restored to palustrine emergent wetland. State endangered and threatened species have begun to occupy several of these sites since their restoration.

Most of the restoration projects have involved permanent easements, since the State wetlands law does not allow conversion of wetlands once they are restored. Therefore, wetlands restored under the 10-year restoration agreement and the 30-year easement option will be permanently protected.

Most of the restoration projects have been in Warren and Salem counties where most agricultural drainage has historically occurred.

Accomplishments

Since 1995, nine applications for permanent easements have been funded in New Jersey. These projects represent about 425 acres of wetland restoration. The appraised value of these lands has varied from \$100 per acre to \$3,500 per acre depending on the present agricultural land use. Lands in active agricultural production with high value crops have received the highest easement payments. Five non-permanent easement applications have been received for the 2001 Fiscal Year.

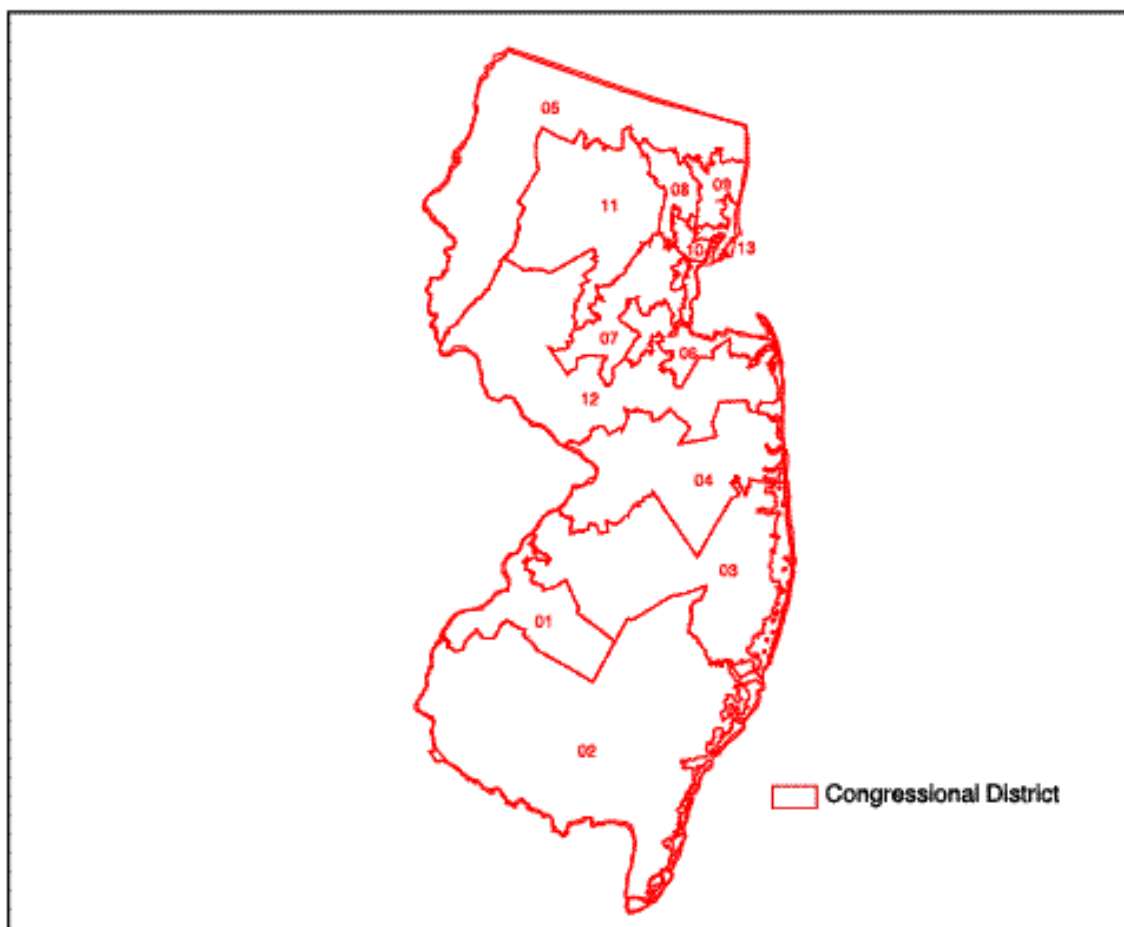
Program Benefits

The benefits of the WRP are wildlife habitat improvement, water quality protection and floodwater retention. In addition, New Jersey landowners, who participate in WRP, enjoy reduced property tax rates on enrolled acreage.

State contact

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New Jersey Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



New Jersey Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (95-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 2	\$ 46,975	1	\$ 149,345	3
District 3	\$ 39,800	2	\$ 219,589	5
District 4	\$ 14,150	2	\$ 14,150	2
District 5	\$ 0	0	\$ 103,320	2
District 12	\$ 6,800	1	\$ 51,352	2
State Totals	\$ 107,725	6	\$ 537,756	14

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